

Just the FACTS

Musically Gifted

Seven West singers will rehearse and perform as part of the All-District Choir on Saturday, October 28. They are: sopranos senior Meriam Dwidar and junior Susan Gilbert, altos seniors Beth Ann Puckett and Micki Koyn and junior Heidi Seymour, tenor junior Dan Pingel, and bass junior Tony Wolk.

Beth Ann and Dan also qualified to tryout for All-State Choir. If they make All-State, they will travel to TAN-TAR-A in January to sing with 250 other outstanding high school singers from all around the state.

No Wimps Here

"Home Ec is not a wimpy course," says Mrs. Linda Kinder. "We want students to know that it's for everybody."

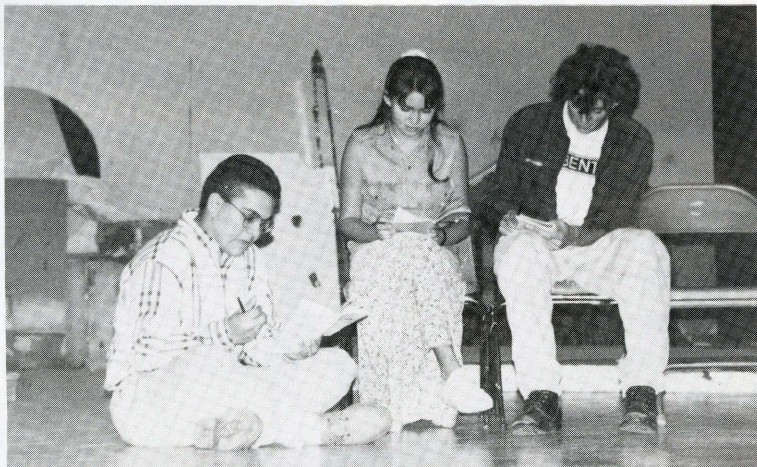
Because of this, the name of Home Economics courses are being changed throughout the nation to Family and Consumer Sciences. According to Mrs. Kinder, the more up-to-date curriculum will teach "skills for your lifetime."

Super Smart

Jocelyn Clogston, an eighth grader here, scored a 27 on the ACT, putting her in the 91st percentile nationwide. Her individual scores in the knowledge and skills area of the ACT qualified her for both state and national recognition. She took the test with juniors and seniors last spring as a part of the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Jocelynn says that her parents were more excited about it than she was. "It's not that big of deal. It was just a test that everyone has to take." Her former SAIL teacher Mr. John Ostrowski says that he's "very proud of her".

Another Openin', Another Show



FIGHT SCENE...Seniors Jason Santos, Melissa Rae Brown, Marc Schneider talk about life and love after a tragic moment in the fall play. Photo by Josh Nichols

by Meriam Dwidar

The audience comes pouring in to fill the theater seats. Backstage hands move things about on stage as the actors and actresses rehearse lines. Just as soon as the rush dies down, everyone gets in their places for the opening scene. The house lights go down, and the curtain opens. This is it!

This describes what several newcomers will be going through on November 8, opening night for the fall play, "Rebel Without A Cause." The play will also be

presented on the November 9, 10, and 11.

"One thing I'm excited about opening night is being on stage, because this is my debut here," said senior Brad Kelsey, who plays Buzz Gunderson, the toughest guy in school. This is Brad's first production here, but he was very involved in theater at his school in Iowa.

Junior Casey Henrichs plays her first lead in West theater in the part of Mrs. Stark. "I'm especially excited about getting recognition for my hard work," commented Casey. "Another thing I'm excited about is that I get to emasculate Nik Degler, who plays Mr. Stark in the show."

Another person in his first show is senior Dave Clepper, who plays Crunch, a gang member. "What I fear most about opening night is forgetting all my lines," says Dave. "But what I'm excited about is getting the chance to beat up people on stage."

Senior Melissa Brown will play Judy Brown, the female lead role. She describes the character as someone who is very insecure. "She puts up a front to fit in with the gang," Melissa said. "My favorite scene is when I walk through the mansion with Plato and Jim because it adds a little bit of humor to a very dramatic scene."

Seniors Hoping Petition Succeeds

by Brian Grellner

Seniors may graduate on May 31, one week earlier than usual.

Class officers are collecting names on a petition that they will present to the School Board in November to persuade the Board to give seniors early graduation.

This would benefit seniors and underclassmen. By graduating early, seniors would take finals early, and could get an early start preparing for college or a summer job. Underclassmen would take their finals in silence without the

interruption of senior activities.

The number of state required school days is 174, and Hazelwood requires 177. "We have three extra days for a cushion if snow days would be needed," says building principal Dr. Sarah Spalding, "and we're trying to get the School Board to allow us one week for early graduation."

Many seniors are excited about graduating early, not only because they will leave earlier, but because they can get an early start on their future. According to Mr. Tom Bennett, senior class sponsor, if the School Board agrees, it will be a convenience to everyone.

HAPPY ENDING



REIGNING ROYALTY..."I was surprised," senior Jennifer Faerber said after being crowned Homecoming Queen. "It made the night more special—memorable!" Photo by Jason Myers

Wildcats March to the Tune of Victory

by Kim Washburn

A hush falls upon the crowd as the nervous marching band waits to enter the field, their hearts beating fast with anticipation. Suddenly, a voice comes over the loud speaker, "Drum majors Jeff Hundelt and Darlene Saindon, is your band ready for competition?" A loud whistle is heard and the band steps off.

It was the eighth annual "Drums Along the River" Riverview Invitational Marching Band Festival and Competition where 10 high school marching bands from all over the St. Louis area showed their skill and talent to many spectators and judges Friday night, October 13.

The Marching Wildcats placed second in the Blue division, a higher division than they competed in last year, losing first place to East by only a half a point. They also won trophies for "Best Woodwinds", "Best Brass", and "Best Soloist" by alto saxophone Jeff Hundelt.

They were ranked fourth place

of the ten bands that competed overall and ranked second place in musical performance overall. Band director Mr. Wade Dowdy said that he was "very happy, particularly in regards to being rated second all night in musical performance."

The judges look at five things: music execution, marching and maneuvering, music and marching general effect, percussion, and auxiliary. Assistant director Mr. Bill Volk said, "After all the rehearsals and performances, it was overwhelming to see and hear the band perform at an all-time best."

Drum Major Jeff Hundelt said, "We did

great for moving up a division and I was happy to see we won so many awards."

The Wildcats marched their way to victory, and drum major Darlene Saindon said, "With everybody working together we will be unstoppable next year."



FORWARD MARCH...Band 'Cats hit their marks to score high and finish second in their division in the Drums Along the River competition. Photo by Jason Myers

Debaters Prepare For First Meet

by Jenni Carter

A new debate team will soon represent West in competitions with other area high schools.

Sometime last year Mrs. Jan Haas, the sponsor for the club, was approached by Jason Santos with the idea. Jason and a few other students thought it would be a good idea to start a team.

The team meets three nights a week, and one afternoon. Not only are they preparing to compete in classic debates, but competitions will include monologues, duet acting, impromptu speeches, and other performance events.

Members are required to come to at least two practices and to participate in at least two tournaments, to be considered a member of the team. Right now there are about 20 members.

They have been having little competitions, but their first real debate is October 30 at Pattonville High after school.

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TOP

—ten—

TOP 10
SIGNS IT'S
HALLOWEEN
AT WEST

10. Three words—Junior High babies.
9. Seniors look even scarier.
8. That eerie glow from the cafeteria is a shade brighter.
7. Marge Simpson roams the halls.
6. Instead of just walking away, your school lunch turns on you.
5. Dr. Spalding reconsiders her dream of becoming the next Elvira.
4. That green-haired kid blends in.
3. Mr. Bennett does his impression of Mr. Rogers—oops that's everyday.
2. Misty fog from junior high kids spraying their hair the colors of the rainbow.
1. The eyes on the stuffed turkey in Mr. Hughes' office follow you wherever you go.

Gazette
PONDERABLE

What is another
word for
thesaurus?

The West
GAZETTE

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Wanted: Just A Little Respect

by Ellen Gadberry

Have you been in a class where a person has something to say about everything, but the way that they say it is not exactly "polite"?

Respect is on the decline in our generation. When we look at how our parents were expected to behave towards their parents and teachers we see a dramatic difference.

"We see more and more disrespect, but there is still a majority of students who are still respectful," said associate principal Mr. Steve Jurkins. He says respect is a "two-way street." We should have more respect for our teachers in order to get respect in return. Having respect doesn't mean power, it just means consideration of other people's feelings.

"People haven't come to the realization that you should treat others the way you would want to be treated," said senior Jason Santos.

Respect is needed between races, genders, groups,

and classes.

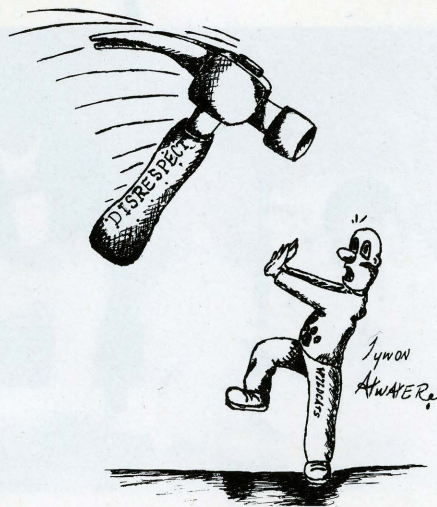
Senior class president Stacey Meehan says, "I think it's all about maturity. As freshmen we had that same lack of respect for the upperclassmen and teachers as some of them do now."

If you can be mature, people will see who you really are and respect you for that. Maturity will also show you how others deserve your respect.

Speech teacher Mrs. Jan Haas shows students what respect is with her "Friday Thoughts." Each Friday any student is able to get up and express his or her thoughts without people ridiculing them.

"Respect is a very difficult issue to discuss," said Mrs. Haas. "It is not something you can teach. It is learned through life and at home." She also says that some of the disrespect we see may not actually be disrespect but it is people being honest. They don't intend to hurt someone but they are just thoughtless in the way they express their opinions.

Respect is going to be something we will need and experience later on in life. Starting now with our teachers and classmates will get us a head start.



MOVIE REVIEW

Horror Flick Stirs Up Screams

by Brian Grellner

Halloween 6, The Curse Of Michael Myers, simply put, is outstanding. That is, of course, if you like slasher films with gallons of blood at every turn.

But this one being the sixth installment of the "Halloween" series is somewhat different from the other films. It sheds a lot of light on why Michael Myers is what he is, and it boasts a great story and plot.

Rated R for language, violence, and brief nudity, "Halloween 6" includes scenes where characters meet their untimely demise in many different ways, including by farm equipment and a washing machine.

The basic purpose of the movie is to reveal the secrets of Michael Myers. Throughout it we are given bits and pieces of Michael Myers' past.

"Halloween 6" stars Donald Pleasance as Dr. Loomis, who was Michael Myers' psychiatrist when he was a little boy. Now Dr. Loomis must find a way to destroy Michael before he can kill again.

This is a great movie, but those with weak stomachs should avoid it. So if you enjoy massive amounts of people being slaughtered in a murderous frenzy, check out "Halloween 6." You will definitely be satisfied.

Other movies the Gazette Staff recommends for Halloween:

The Bad Seed—"It's scary, not gruesome." Meriam Dwidar
The Shining—"Jack Nicholson with an ax. Nothing is scarier." Brian Grellner

Demon Knight—"The special effects added to the thrill of the movie." Tom Millikan

Barney—"He's a big purple

dinosaur. Can you say more?" Tom Millikan

Witchboard—"It was really scary. Some parts made me laugh really hard." Jackie Shields

The Crow—"It takes place on the night before Halloween, and Brandon Lee is dressed up like a crow. Very symbolic." Ellen Gadberry

NKOTB "The Hangin' Tough Tour—"It's scary that we used to seriously watch that stuff for real."

Bram Stoker's Dracula—"It was just horrible. So gory and yech!" Kim Washburn



Balyhoo! Gives Creativity a Chance

by Michelle Doering

You see a student walking around with blue sheets of paper folded over their arm and think, "What the heck is that?" Finally one circulates its way to you. "Balyhoo!" it says. This underground newspaper recently made its first appearance at West and got a lot of different reactions.

Over the summer, seniors Josh Nichols and Rachel Smith and sophomores Jessica Smith and Clayton Robbins decided to start an underground newspaper. The production cost of \$90 came out of Clayton's own pockets, which shows major dedication.

There was no charge for the first issue, but the next issue, due out in December, will cost 25 cents.

The Balyhoo! staff went to building principal Dr. Sarah Spalding to get permission to pass out the paper at school. In order for students to hand it out, Balyhoo!

had to be edited to make sure that there was no material in it that might cause a disruption at school, said Dr. Spalding. The portion that was edited out of the first one, which was about abortion, will appear in the next one. It can't be sold on school grounds because non-school sponsored items or unapproved material cannot be sold at school.

Balyhoo! received a mixed response. According to Valerie Shea, a sophomore on Balyhoo's staff, the depressing story and poems are what bothered people about the paper most. The next issue will have less of this and more reviews, she said.

I think that the creators of the paper had a lot of courage to publish it. "If they're not going to come out with their own underground newspaper, they shouldn't be down on this pioneer attempt," said junior Mikel Szyman of the Balyhoo! staff.

Ever since Cat Tales, West's literary magazine, was discontin-

ued there hasn't been a way for students to publish their own creative writings through the school, but Balyhoo! finally gives them an outlet.

"It was about getting people to think and have something out of the ordinary to read," said Clayton.

It got quite a few people thinking. Many of the people who didn't like the first issue said they are going to submit their own writings to make the next one better or to even start their own underground paper, so the plan worked.

Clayton did a majority of the work in putting the paper together, said Josh Nichols, but the next issue will be more of a group effort. Clayton wrote the reviews and received copyright permission from a press release to publish movie pictures.

This first issue of Balyhoo! may not have been perfect, but it was only a first time effort. It was something new and different to read, something our minds can always use.

WEIRD

Questions Nag Growing Brains

by Ellen Gadberrry

Why? We start out as two year olds asking our mothers why? Then throughout life, little occurrences happen to bring back that nagging voice that makes us wonder.

The basic "why" questions are: Why is the sky blue?

Why are we called the Show-Me state? Junior Dan Bradely's favorite basic why question is "Why do we park on a driveway but drive on a parkway?"

There are other questions that some people would like the answer to.

"Why do they put toilet paper in little squares?" says sophomore Stephanie Fears. "No one will use just one square."

Junior Robin Shiflet asks,

"Why do you have to be 18 to get into Chuck E. Cheese without an adult, but it's the place where a kid can be a kid?"

What about the English language? "Why do we have the words we have? Where did they come from?" junior Melissa Stack asks. "Why is cartilage called gristle? Why are cavities also called caries? Why is an itch called an itch?"

Our school has many why questions. Why do we have blue lights on the Common walls? Are bugs that bad?

Freshman Chris Wolf has a simple question: "Homework. Why?"

Why were the CA rooms designed the way they are? Why is it so hard to find the Fine Arts rooms? Why are there two sinks in the journalism room?

If you are now sick of the word why, here are two more: Why did I write this and why are you still reading it?

School not what you thought it would be?

Not what you expected?

Wildcat Country has surprises in store for just about everybody.

'Odd Jobs' Got Teachers Through College Years

by Jackie Shields

News flash! Teachers are people, too. No, they did not hatch out of an egg as a "teacher." They have lives and just like many of us, have had several jobs. Believe it or not, they haven't been teachers all their lives.

Before he was a math teacher, Mr. Jack Scanio was a construction worker. He said the best part of the job was getting to hold the sign that said "slow." "I was fired when I blew out the transmission on a construction vehicle," commented Mr. Scanio. He adds that if he couldn't be a teacher now, he would be a policeman.

Spanish teacher Mr. Brian Joye was a janitor in college. He said he liked it because he could actually see that he had accomplished something and because he worked nights. His duties included cleaning locker rooms, gyms, sweeping, and mostly sleeping. The worst part about the job was when he would get woke up. And, if he couldn't be a teacher he'd be an FBI agent.

Mrs. Jeanne Seibel in a Dairy Queen uniform? Yes, at one time this was true. Mrs. Seibel worked at Dairy Queen when she was younger. "It was the second week I had worked there and I kept forgetting to put the bananas in the banana splits and the strawberries in the strawberry shortcakes, so they fired me," said Mrs. Seibel. She says that if she wasn't a teacher today, she would be in New York or Los Angeles trying to get on a sit-com or in a Broadway play.

Some teachers even had several jobs before they became teachers. Mrs. Mary Simpson worked in a drug store, sold home interiors, and cleaned houses. Ms. Elaine Harke worked at a gas station and at White Castle. Coach Larry Clickner worked on the railroad, was a tree trimmer, and worked in a

warehouse. He says his favorite was working on the railroad because he got to travel. And if he wasn't a teacher? "I might have been a dentist because my parents wanted me to be."

So, the next time you're sitting through one of your teachers most boring lectures, picture them in a Burger King uniform. You never know. Years ago that's where they could have been.

Awkward Times Show We're All 'Clueless'

by Bryan Borah

We all have them. We might not wish others to know about them, but we all have them—those times when you wish you could just crawl into the nearest hole and disappear for 5 to 8 years. That one moment elevated above all the rest simply by the fact that everyone will remember the look on your face when it happened. You know what it is—your most embarrassing moment.

Some happened in athletics, some happened years ago, some

happened in front of masses of people, but they all share that same common bond of embarrassment. All the interviewing is over, so sorry to everyone who was interviewed, but everyone else will now know:

"At last year's Homecoming game, it was so cold I wore my warm up pants underneath my skirt. Well our sponsor told us to take them off. It was then that I realized that I hadn't worn my trunks. So I ended up performing the whole game with no trunks on!" Senior Michelle Bohning

"I was in the shower and my sister kept coming in on me. I told

her that if she came in one more time I was going to moon her. Well, the door opened, and I didn't stop to see who it was, and I mooned them. I turned around and it turned out to be my father!" Senior Henry Graham

"We were running down Howdershell for cross-country practice this year, and I ran straight into a mailbox and broke it!" Freshman Lisa Kozlowski

"In the fifth grade, a bottle of my perfume broke in my book bag, and the whole classroom smelled and everyone knew it was me!" Senior Tonya King

"I was at Elephant Rocks State Park and was up on a rock, and I bent over and my shorts ripped in front of the whole public!" Junior Tony Moutray

"Right before a basketball game, we were warming up and somebody pantsed me in front of the crowd! It was so embarrassing." Senior Brian Pittman

"I got caught mooning some lady my fifth grade year, which resulted in me getting a spanking!" Senior Gordon Craig

"Last year 500 other people and I were walking across Howdershell to Undercliff and a cop stops me for jaywalking and he tells me if he ever sees me do it again, he'll give me a ticket!" Senior Melissa Brown



BUG CHASERS.. English teacher Mr. Byron Chapin shows off his exterminating business with his license plates. After a job like that even students can look good. Photo by Ellen Gadberrry



LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE..Not even Dr. Spalding could wake senior Tom Millikan on Toga Day, to his embarrassment. Photo by Jason Myers

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STARS

—reveal—

SCORPIO (10/24-11/22) You will find love in strange places. **SAGITTARIUS (11/23-12/21)** This will be a great month. Do what you've always wanted! **CAPRICORN (12/22-1/20)** Your Homecoming date will come back to haunt you. **AQUARIUS (1/21-2/19)** Keep your relationships strong. Don't harm those close to you. **PISCES (2/20-3/20)** Budget your money. Spend wisely. **ARIES (3/21-4/20)** Have a month of fun. Visit places you've never been. **TAURUS (4/21-5/21)** Look for surprises from your friends. **GEMINI (5/22-6/21)** This month will add sparkle to your life, but wait for it to come. **CANCER (6/22-7/23)** Improve your eating and exercising habits; someone is watching you! **LEO (7/24-8/23)** Listen for an answer to a serious question. **VIRGO (8/24-9/23)** You're too hot to handle! Cool down before you burn a relationship. **LIBRA (9/24-10/23)** Your advice will be helpful to a friend who is in need. Help them out.

STANDING OUT OR FITTING IN

by Meriam Dwidar

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.— Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau was a person who thought for himself despite what the rest of the world thought of him. He was a non-conformist.

"Conformity is doing something to fit in, even if it is against your wishes," says senior Stephanie Hurst. "Non-conformists get more respect because they have more of a backbone. I listen to music every chance I get and disregard television often."

Some people at West just "go with the flow."

"Whatever is in style, I go along with," says senior Julie Rapp, "even though I think non-conformists get more respect."

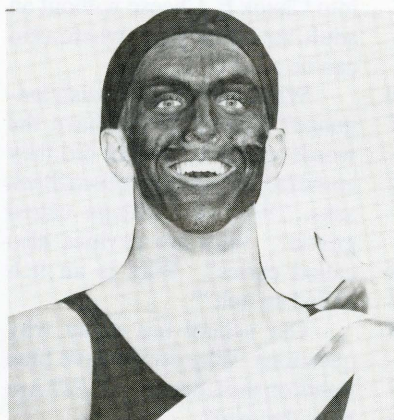
Senior Dave Middendorf says he is a conformist, adding non-conformity is "doing whatever you want, despite the morality behind it."

Others, like senior Bessie Throgmorton say they just like to do their own thing. She said, "It comes more naturally for me not to conform than to conform."

Showin' OFF

The theme was "Silence of a Sunset," but Homecoming '95 was anything but quiet.

RED FACED... "It took six years of senior classes to get all my ideas together for Spirit Week, especially Toga Day." Senior Shane Stewart *Photo by Jason Myers*



TOP ten

Top 10 things overheard during Spirit Week.

10. "I could never dress up like that!"
9. "Wow! Look at that fro."
8. "When do I get to sleep?"
7. "This is your last warning."
6. "I need a price check on the Charmin Jumbo Pack."
5. "Hey, get off my lawn!"
4. "Where are we going?"
3. "Whose house is this?"
- 2.) "Seniors!"
- 1.) "Cops"

YOU said it

"This outfit makes me wanna sing Grease." Senior Meriam Dwidar on 50s day.

"If I go to jail, I'll cry." Senior Natalie Whithead after being pulled over by the cops while teepeeing.

"I hope the seniors don't find our meeting place tonight, or we'll have to play the game 'Get Out of Your Car and Run.'" Junior Pat Conner

"My bell bottoms are in my way." Senior Ellen Gadberry on Hippie Day.

"How do you put these things on?" Senior Hilary Murrish about togas

"Which one of you wants the first literary ticket?" A cop responding to Spirit Week teepeeing.

"Officer, why did you have to wake us up like that?" Senior Bob Meyer pretending to be asleep after he was caught teepeeing

"Oh, my eyes, my eyes!" Junior Kelly Sauer's reaction to shaving cream sprayed in her face

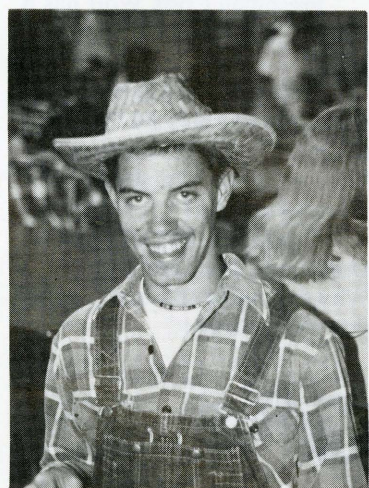
"Oak Tree!" Mr. Bennett's response to Rachel Penn's wreath and toga outfit

"Spirit Week is one of the things that makes West the Best." Senior Matt Callahan's overall view of Spirit Week

"Seniors are awesome." Eighth grader David Moulder

"What class will I be able to sleep in tomorrow?" Senior Seamus McGinley

FARM FASHION... "I got here before any other seniors. I kept hoping that I hadn't mistakenly dressed up a week early." Senior Pat Hawn *Photo by Jason Myers*



NERDY SMILE... "The name tag was from my old job at National. It was fun because I got to show my true self." Senior Christina Wilson *Photo by Jason Myers*



FIFTIES DOLL... "People kept saying skirts weren't that short. They kept saying 'You're the rebel 50s girl.'" Senior Natalie Whitehead *Photo by Jason Myers*



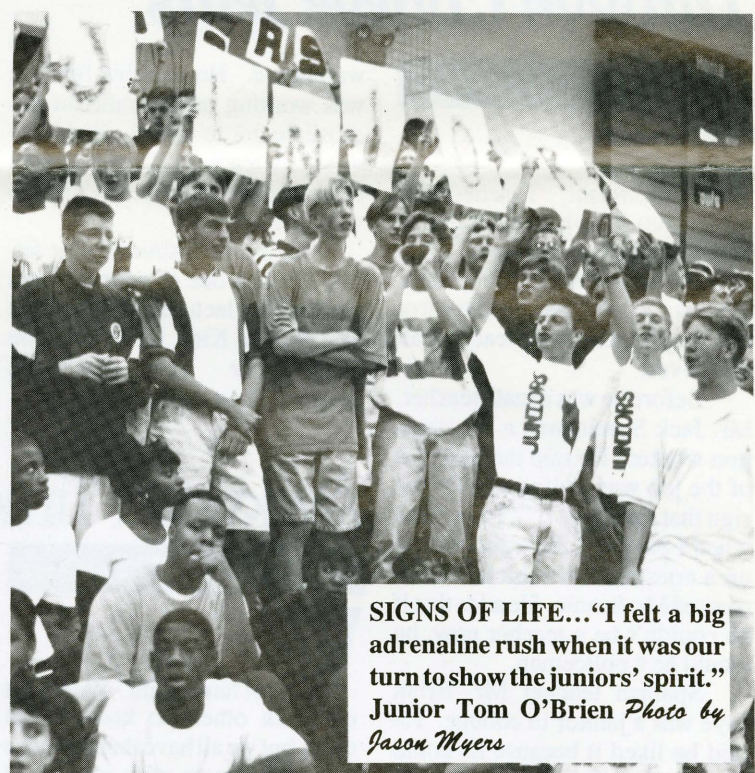
HIPPIE VIBES... "The wig was hot and it itched. I couldn't see where I was walking since it was so big." Senior Marcus Graham *Photo by Jason Myers*



COOL SOLO... "I remember thinking, 'Hope I don't start playing Kenny G songs.'" Junior Jeff Hundelt *Photo by Jason Myers*



RAHRAHZ... "I was so nervous performing at my final Homecoming assembly that I thought I would never get up on this pyramid." Senior Kim Kalal *Photo by Jason Myers*



SIGNS OF LIFE... "I felt a big adrenaline rush when it was our turn to show the juniors' spirit." Junior Tom O'Brien *Photo by Jason Myers*



AT THE RAIL... "We united as a class to live up to our senior status!" Senior Nyreshia Conwell *Photo by Jason Myers*



LONG WALK... "Realizing the big day I had ahead of me, I just tried to keep a smile on my face and perform my best." Senior Micki Koyn *Photo by Jason Myers*

BEAT IT... "The crowd's response was awesome. Everybody loves the drums so we give them our best." Senior Chris Smith *Photo by Jason Myers*



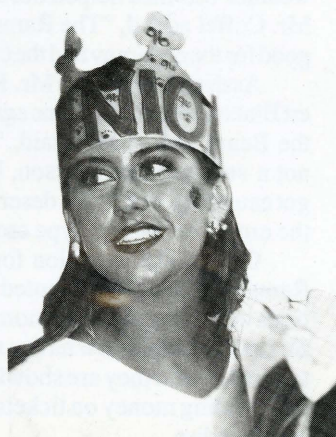
POWER RUN... "I was hoping I would get to the endzone without getting caught." Senior Trevor Gaylor *Photo by Jason Myers*

GET SET... "The offense just clicked, which made our game more successful." Junior Frank Taylor, #32 *Photo by Josh Nichols*



DANCE WITH ME... "I didn't care how I looked. I was just out there dancing in the middle of everybody and having a good time." Senior Jason Behrens with sophomore Gina Aliberti. *Photo by Crystal Lemmons*

FAB FOURSOME... "The music was OK, but it wasn't the music I really listen to. More slow songs and more rap would have been better." Freshman Meléne Brock (right) with freshmen Tyrone Harris, Myron Daniels, and Aneetra Johnson, a student at Riverview. *Photo by Prestige*



CROWNING MOMENT... "I'll always remember how close our class was over Spirit Week, and I'll never forget when one guy's dad pulled a gun on us when we tried to teepee his house." Senior Amy Lepo *Photo by Jason Myers*

"It's 4 a.m. Do you know where your seniors are?" Senior Danielle Camarota's description of the cops' conversation with some parents

"Are we going to eat yet?" Seniors' response to the late hours teepeeing after not having the chance to eat dinner

"No, this is not my real hair." Senior Marcus Craig to inquiring students wanting to know about the fro he wore on Hippy Day

"Parents were really understanding during Spirit Week." Senior Jason Santos

"Are those my seniors? Are those my boys?" Senior Chad Williams' reaction upon seeing the line of seniors' cars on Thursday night after being lost from the crowd.

"It was nice to see the juniors come together to destroy and teepee other classes." Juniors Christy Moulder's and Pat Conner's reaction to the unity of their class

"Hand me that shaving cream, I need to shave." Junior Crystal Robinson's stepfather's reaction to the shaving cream cans left on lawns

"I could have wiped a third country's butt with all the toilet paper that was used during Spirit Week." Senior Jason Santos

"Nik, that's wrong." Senior Rachael Smith's reaction to the outfits Nik Degler wore during Spirit Week

"The music every morning was a nice change because it brought everyone together." Senior Stacy Luck's and Rachel Penn's response to the music played for dress up days

"Use a blanket for a toga, it's more comfortable" Senior Rachel Smith's "word to the wise" for underclassmen.

"I love this song." Senior Meriam Dwidar and Jason Santos about the majority of the songs played at Homecoming

"What size sheet did you get?" Senior Jennifer Faerber

"I'm all shaving creamed so I won't get in your car." Sophomore Dana Hackworth

"Come on, wake up! It's time for the assembly." Building principal Dr. Sarah Spalding trying to wake senior Tom Millikan during Gazette on Friday

Sports Editorial

Guys vs. Girls: The Battle Goes On

by Jackie Shields

"Guys get more attention just because they're guys." That statement, made by freshman Danielle Drexler, is probably one that most girl athletes can agree with. The controversy with girls' sports vs. guys' has been going on for years. Granted, the battle for girls to get more attention is getting easier, but they still feel they are underestimated. Guys do get more attention. Why is it that every Saturday tons of people pay money to see a varsity football game, but nobody except parents goes to the varsity volleyball games even though they are undefeated in their conference.

Girls also feel that they are not taken seriously when they need something done.

"Whenever guys need equipment, they get it; girls just get the run-around," said senior tennis player Michelle Sluhan.

She also points out that there is poison ivy growing on the tennis courts, but nobody will do anything about it.

Senior Lisa Sutter also thinks that guys are treated better. She says that the baseball mound was not taken off the softball field until during tryouts. The girls had to wait until this was done before they could take the field. This obviously cut into the tryout time. There have also been times when softball games have started late because they hadn't drawn the lines on the field yet.

"Guys have more spectators because they say that girls' sports are slow paced and they say we don't have the ability to perform as well as they do, so we're not given a fair chance," said Sutter.

Overall, girls see it as a lack of respect and attention. They feel that nobody sees them as real athletes; therefore they are not taken seriously. Hopefully one day girls' sports will be as popular as guys' sports, but this has to start with the facilities.

If girls are given the opportunities and treated with the same respect as guys, maybe more people will realize that girls can play just as well as, or maybe even better than, guys.

by Dan Hasekamp

There is a growing controversy brewing in schools all over America. The females are saying guys athletics are being favored over girls. Is this true? Guys athletics more than pull their own weight when it comes to the funding they deserve and receive.

Senior Chris Howard said, "Girls sports are inferior; guys are the majority when it comes to excelling in sports."

Men's sports usually draw a bigger crowd for the same sport. The larger attendance generates more money for the school.

There is more action in guys sports. Senior Gary Firlie agrees that more people would rather watch a guy slam dunk than a girl lay it in. It is only fair that the boys' teams share in some of the benefits they help to bring in to the school. The girls' teams are acting as if they are being treated like it's the stone age again.

What are the girls complaining about anyway? At West, ev-

everything is pretty well split evenly, according to activities director Mr. Dennis Coffel. The budget for girls and guys sports are about the same. For instance the soccer program as a whole gets about \$2,000. Around 1,200 goes to the guys. Remember that the guys have three teams as opposed to the girls' two. This is the case with most of the sports—the guys get slightly more money but also have more teams. In sports where there is an equal number of teams, the budget is shared equally. For instance, swimming gets around \$850 and it is split down the middle.

"More guys count on getting scholarships to college through sports," said junior Tony Damico. Male athletes, more often than women, carry on after college. Top notch male athletes can earn a living in a pro sports career. How many women's careers involve professional sports? The important thing to remember is that without the minimal funding the guys receive, they would not have the edge they need to continue to the next level.

Underclassmen Shine on Fall Teams

by Jenni Carter

"We're improving, making progress," says JV football coach Mr. Dan Odom, "but we have a lot of work to do."

It may be that the team is suffering from the loss of three sophomores, Dan Fleck, Denard Barbee, and Jason Stringfellow, who moved up to Varsity this season. They did, however, have four freshmen move up: Greg Carroll, Myron Daniels, Austin Martin, and Chuck Wallis. Quarterback sophomore Lance Catching feels that if they had their three sophomores back, they'd be doing much better, adding that the freshmen are really helping out.

JV SOCCER

Coach Dean McGlasson's JV soccer guys are playing well, with a record of 10-2-2. The team has three captains, sophomores Joe Buffa, Scott McFarland, and Brian Pierce. Pierce said, "We play well if we work as a team and stick together."

"When we work as a team," said freshmen J.J. Dore, agreeing with Pierce, "we are almost unbeatable."

Dore is one of the four freshmen who moved up to junior varsity this year. Others are Tyke Parrish, Nick Juengst, and Todd Roe.

JV SOFTBALL

JV softball coach Mr. Dave Wollbrinck says his girls have never been shut out and their games have all been one-run or two-run ball games. The team is made up of nine freshman and five sophomores. They won the JV softball tournament, continuing the tradition of about the past four years.

FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL

Breaking a school record isn't easy. It takes a lot of teamwork. Teamwork is what this year's freshman girls volleyball team had. Their final record was 12-2. Twelve

wins is the most by a freshman team at West.

Coach Hal Griffin said, "We've had an excellent season. I'm very proud of them." One of their best wins was against St. Charles, 15-11 and 15-8.

FRESHMAN CROSS COUNTRY

In his fourth year as the fresh-

man coach of the cross country team, coach Mr. Larry Clickner believes that the number and the quality of runners out for the team is improving. The top five freshmen on the team are: Aaron Bryant, Rick Lotspeich, David McCrary, Charles Gensler, and Joe Thomann. Their last race was October 25 at Forest Park.

HEAVY HITTER... Sophomore Paige Robinson had two homeruns and a double in the game against McCluer North. Despite her performance, the Wildcats lost by one run. Photo by Josh Nichols



The NFL's Back, Now There's a 'Ram'page in Town

by Bryan Borah

The St. Louis Rams. Like it or not they are here. After months of trying to lure an NFL team to St. Louis, FANS, Inc. brought the RAMS.

The Rams have been here since summer and fan reaction has been tremendous. The Rams have brought a new atmosphere to St. Louis, with their 5-1 start. At a time when baseball had nothing to offer but the Cardinals, the Rams brought the fans back to Busch Stadium.

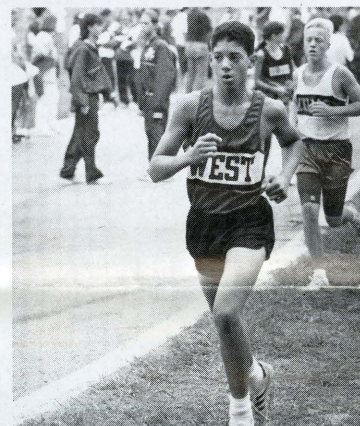
As far as sales go, Champs Sporting Goods reports that they can hardly keep Rams merchandise on the shelf. Senior Stacy

Seabaugh said, "We finally have a team that might do something."

Athletic Director Dennis Coffel attended the first Rams home game. He described it as tremendously exciting and said that the fact that the Rams won and the weather was nice helped out a lot. Mr. Coffel added, "The Rams are good for the economy and the city."

Assistant principal Mr. Robert Blake attended the game against the Bears. Mr. Blake said, "I'm not a very excitable person, but I got caught up in it." He described the crowd as college-type crowd.

Overall the reception for the Rams has already contributed millions of dollars to the economy of St. Louis. People now have a team to root for, and they are showing it by spending money on tickets and merchandise.



LONG DISTANCE... Freshman David McCrary heads for the finish line at Jefferson Barracks.

Teens Tell Favorite Teams

by Tom Millikan

Here at West there are lots of hobbies and interests, a great many of them being sports. In order to find out the popular and the not-so-popular sports, students were polled to see how each sport ranked. Sports were split into two categories: high school and college/pro sports.

In high school sports, the results were both surprising and obvious. The obvious number one choice (since they are in the middle of a great season) was football. A surprise at second was baseball, since they are not even playing right now and it's a while before they start. Third place went to the hockey, which shows good support for that club team. The soccer team had a fourth place finish. This could be accredited to the solid year they have put together. Finally, fifth place goes to a well deserving Varsity Volleyball Team. They have put together a terrific year and are getting some support.



CATS stats

Football

The varsity 'Cats have improved their record to 5-2 with an exciting Homecoming win over the McCluer Comets. Coach Butch Beiter says that if that if they don't take anyone for granted, they could be looking at an 8-2 record.

Softball

The Varsity Softball Team had a positive season even though they finished with a losing record of 8-10. They have a good outlook on next year with many returning players.

Soccer

Varsity soccer has added a few wins, upping their record to 8-5-3. This should help them turn it up a notch as they hit the homestretch heading into districts

Tennis

Tennis finished the season with a positive attitude about a less than perfect year. They finished with a 3-8 team record. The top three players were seniors Michelle Sluhan, Kiersten Telder, and Cathy Bushong.

Cross Country

The Boys Cross Country Team has stayed in consistent pattern by staying in the top ten as a team. Stepping up in Conference was junior Steven Meyer who finished first for the team.

The girls had a very strong showing in Conference also, finishing second in both the varsity and the junior varsity divisions.

Both girls and guys started districts last Saturday at McCluer North and they start sectionals tomorrow at Sioux Passage.

Volleyball

Districts begin next week for the Varsity Volleyball Team. The competition might think twice about the spikers' 18-5-4 record. With the kind of year that the lady 'Cat's are having, there is no limit to where they can go.